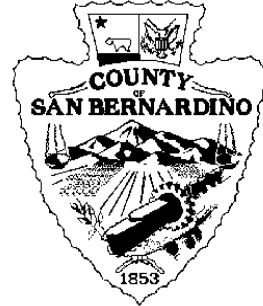


# NEWS

## From Supervisor Bill Postmus First District, San Bernardino County



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 10, 2003

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### NEW LAW PUTS POSTMUS ON SOUTH COAST AIR-QUALITY BOARD

SACRAMENTO – A stroke of the Governor's pen this morning paved the way for San Bernardino County Supervisor Bill Postmus to be the County's next representative to the largest Air Quality Management District in the state.

"I look forward to representing San Bernardino County at the South Coast Air Quality Management District," the First District Supervisor said. "I'll work hard to protect our air quality while at the same time working to keep jobs from leaving our state. Too many employers leave Southern California because of excessive, unworkable environmental regulations."

With Governor Gray Davis' signature, Assembly Bill 1090 will now become law on January 1. The bill, authored by Assemblyman John Longville (D-Rialto), will exempt San Bernardino County from a requirement that all members of the Governing Board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) live within the boundaries of the district. The exemption would expire in January 2006, unless new legislation is approved to extend it further.

Postmus, a resident of Hesperia, lives within the Mojave Desert AQMD, an agency whose governing board he currently chairs and on which he will continue to serve as a county representative. Postmus expressed an interest in being appointed as the County's representative to SCAQMD when former Second District Supervisor Jon Mikels, the County's previous representative, lost his re-election bid in 2002. Fourth District Supervisor Fred Aguiar of Chino agreed to serve as the County's representative until legislation allowing Postmus to serve was approved.

Assemblyman Longville successfully argued that he felt the current residency requirement could restrict the Board of Supervisors from selecting the most qualified candidate for the SCAQMD board. He also said that most residents of San Bernardino County are affected by air pollution created, in part, in the South Coast basin.

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Postmus said he hopes to solidify a growing business-friendly coalition on the Air District board that seeks to balance concern about air quality with concern about the economy of the region. For instance, Postmus said, he supports the idea of businesses being able to use “credit” for emissions reductions from other areas to allow their operations to be permitted in the desert district. There is a provision in state law that allows such “trading” of credit, but only if both air quality districts agree to it.

Postmus said another one of his goals is to ensure consistency between the SCAQMD and the Mojave AQMD so that their Air Quality Attainment Plans are consistent and mutually beneficial. He said the move should also give the desert a louder voice in the development of new regulations that, if adopted by South Coast, eventually would likely become a “standard” or “model” to which Mojave would later be expected to conform.

“In the Mojave district we’ve done about everything we can feasibly do to control our air pollution. The only thing we haven’t been able to do anything about is all of the pollution blowing into our area from the L.A./South Coast basin,” Postmus said. He further stated that he plans to work to improve the situation – at least to make sure the Mojave basin receives acknowledgement from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for particulate matter and ozone that blows into the Mojave basin from other areas. “Pollution knows no political boundaries,” Postmus said.

SCAQMD’s boundaries include portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange Counties. The 12,000-square-mile area is home to more than 14 million people – about half the population of California – and is the second most populous urban area in the United States.

SCAQMD is responsible for controlling emissions from stationary sources of air pollution, including power plants, refineries and auto service stations. There are about 31,000 such businesses operating under SCAQMD permits. About 40% of the basin’s air pollution comes from stationary sources, both businesses and residences. The other 60% of air pollution comes from mobile sources--mainly cars, trucks and buses.